

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0015] to [0016] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0015] FIG. 1A depicts a close-up bottom view of an embodiment of a cap 36 according to the invention. The cap 36 has an internal support structure 50 to support a post 45 inside the cap 36. The post 45 can be substantially cylindrical. ~~An open space 48 is hollow inside the cap 36 where the internal support structure 50 is absent.~~ The internal support structure 50 is discontinuous, thus forming a gap 70 within the cap 36. The support structure 50 can connect the post 45 to opposite sides of the hollow cap. Alternatively, the support structure 50 can connect the post 45 to only one side of the hollow cap 36 or can connect to two or more sides of the cap 36 that are not necessarily opposite sides. The support structure 50 can be a radiating structure as shown in FIG. 1A. Alternatively, the support structure can be of any shape including, linear, wavy and zigzag shapes.

[0016] FIG. 1B depicts a close-up view of a cross-section of the cap along an A-A line in FIG. 1A. The cap 36 is hollow, having ~~an open~~ a hollow space 48. The cap 36 has a radially surrounding sidewall 52, a cap ring 44, and a top 51 that radially extends from a substantially central opening 40 to the sidewall 52. In the embodiment shown, the top 51 is a radial ramp 51 and forms a ledge 54 beyond the sidewall 52. The ramp can have a linear slope as shown in FIG. 1B or can have a curved, non-linear slope that can be concave or convex.

Alternatively, the top 51 can be any structure other than the depicted radial ramp, including a flat, spherical, square, rectangular or triangular structure. The post 45 is supported by the support structure 50 in a spaced position from the cap opening 40. The outlines of the support structure 50 and the post 45 form a passageway between the cap opening 40 and the hollow space 48 within the cap. That is, the gap 70 allows fluid communication from the central opening 40 into the hollow space 48. This allows a product within a container (e.g., a bottle or tube) to which the cap 36 is attached to flow from inside the container, into the hollow space 48 and out through the opening 40. The support structure can contact an inner surface of the top 51 and/or an inner surface of the sidewall 52. The cap can include a snap

ring 42 formed on the internal surface of the cap 36 to snap over a receiver ring of a receiver piece when cap is in a fully closed position. The cap ring 44 is adapted to lock a receiver ring of a receiver piece when the cap 36 is pulled away from the receiver piece. The cap ring 44 can also interact with a neck on the receiver piece to form a seal preventing leakage of product from between the sidewall and receiver piece.

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following amended paragraph:

[0037] FIG. 6 depicts another embodiment of a cap 36' according to the invention. The cap 36' of this embodiment differs only in the portion where it attaches to the neck finish by having a threaded fit rather than a snap-fit. The cap 36' is hollow, having ~~an open~~ a hollow space 48. The cap 36' has a radially surrounding sidewall 52, a thread 62, and a top 51 that radially extends from a substantially central opening 40 to the sidewall 52. In the embodiment shown, the top 51 is a radial ramp and forms a ledge 54 beyond the sidewall 52. The radial ramp can have a linear slope as shown in FIG. 6 or can have a curved, non-linear slope that can be concave or convex. Alternatively the top 51 can be any structure other than the depicted radial ramp, including a flat, spherical, square, rectangular or triangular structure. The post 45 is supported by the support structure in a spaced position from the cap opening 40. The outlines of the support structure and the post 45 form a passageway between the cap opening 40 and the hollow space 48 within the cap. This can allow a product within a container (e.g., a bottle or tube) to which the cap 36' is attached to flow from inside the container, into the hollow space 48 and out through the opening 40. The support structure can contact an inner surface of the top 51 and/or an inner surface of the sidewall 52. The thread 62 of the cap 36' slidably engages a ramp of a neck finish to slide the cap up or down the ramp. The thread 62 can be of any length to allow an appropriate turn of the cap around the neck finish, including any fractional turns, e.g., 1/4, 1/3, 1/2 turn, and one or more turns. A rotation stop 64 can be formed on an inner surface of the cap 36' to prevent the cap from rotating up or down beyond a certain limit.